

WEATHER—FAIR; FRESH WINDS.

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10 PAGES

The

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World.

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# GREAT FIRE SWEEPS ST. LOUIS; ACRES OF BUILDINGS AFLAME.

## GILMAN WAR BEGUN IN CROWDED COURT.

Judge Demands Sworn Testimony to Late Millionaire's Residence — Heirs Say They'll Soon Oust Mrs. Hall.

"Mrs. Hall has been bluffing all the time. If she doesn't put forward some claim of a tangible sort she will be ousted from the big house in Black Rock. Once we are in possession she will never get back unless she shows good proof that she is entitled to go back."—SAMUEL S. GOWDY TO EVENING WORLD.

(Special to The Evening World.) BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 18.—Samuel S. Gowdy, of New York City, attorney for Alfred Gilman, one of the full-blood heirs, said this afternoon that Mrs. Hall had no claim to the estate other than that based on her three years' service in the millionaire's employ.

With keen emphasis he made the statement quoted above.

The administrators appointed by the Court late this afternoon to Black Rock to-morrow to take possession of the big house and the valuable personal property left by Millionaire Gilman.

All those now in possession will have to vacate. MRS. HALL IS NOW IN POSSESSION.

ALL THE PERSONAL EFFECTS, THE PAPERS, CASH, &c., IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF MR. GILMAN'S DEATH WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR.

Important papers have been found at Black Rock by Edward S. Percival, representative of the blood heirs. He has been here a week searching the mansion high and low for testamentary evidence in the great will case.

News of the find leaked out this afternoon.

The closest secrecy is being maintained as to the documents' contents.

Edward T. Percival said this afternoon: "What has been discovered will not be put forward at this time."

Withholds Secret.

"I have been here ten days. I have hunted for a will or other papers that would show how my uncle wanted his estate divided."

"I can only say that the result of my search will be told in time. But probably not to-day."

Probate Judge Nobbs heard at 4 o'clock this afternoon evidence on the disputed point of George F. Gilman's legal residence. All the statutory and full-blood heirs of the millionaire were represented by attorneys, and Mrs. Helen Hall, who claims title de facto to the estate, also had attorneys present.

So great was the interest in the hearing and so numerous the crowd of attorneys, claimants and spectators that the Judge held the session in the City Council Chamber.

In opening the hearing Stiles Judson said that the attorneys assumed the court would hear at this time only the relatives of full-blood kin.

All these heirs, he said, asked for the



MRS. HELEN HALL IN COSTUME.

## VREELAND SEES RATCLIFFE MR. ROSSITER. A BANKRUPT.

Metropolitan and B. R. T. Presidents in Conference.

President H. H. Vreeland, of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, went to Brooklyn today and had a long conference with Clinton L. Rossiter, President of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company.

The two men were together for more than an hour, at the end of which time neither would divulge the nature of the business.

As soon as the news of the conference which is the third between them recently, reached Wall street, Brooklyn Rapid Transit went down while Metropolitan rose correspondingly.

Twelve Big Checks Lost.

Eight of them are Certified—Call for \$21,138.

Twelve checks, eight of them certified and calling for \$21,138, issued for deposit in the Season National Bank and drawn to the order of Matson & Co., Stock Exchange brokers at No. 6 Wall street, have been reported lost.

A few hours after the loss was reported the checks were picked up and brought into the bank. They had merely been dropped by a messenger and not stolen. At the Seaboard Bank it was said that temporary losses due to carelessness were not uncommon.

H. M. Brower is Divorced.

Gets Decree in Suit—They Wed in Haste.

NORFOLK, Va., March 18.—Harry M. Brower, a wealthy young New Yorker, a temporary residence here, was this afternoon granted an absolute divorce from his wife, Nellie Pollard Brower, now living in Joline avenue, Long Branch, N. J.

The couple were married at Long Branch last summer after only three days' acquaintance.

Actor, Once De Lacey's Son-in-Law, Owes \$7,000.

Edward J. Ratcliffe, the actor, now playing at the Manhattan Theatre in "Lovers' Lane," this afternoon made an application to be adjudged a bankrupt in the United States Court, Brooklyn, through his attorney, Frederick B. House.

Ratcliffe stated that his assets amounted to \$100 in wearing apparel, while his liabilities were \$7,292.

Ratcliffe, who was formerly leading man of the Lyceum Theatre, contracted a runaway marriage with the daughter of Peter De Lacey, the horseman. They quarrelled frequently and a few years later he was prosecuted for assaulting her, and sentenced to six months in the penitentiary.

SERVICES FOR MR. YZNAGA.

Duchess of Manchester and Other Relatives in Attendance.

A burial service for the late Fernando Yznaga, the banker, was held this morning in the "Little Church Around the Corner," Twenty-ninth street, near Fifth avenue. The remains are in a receiving vault in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Rev. George Clark Houghton, pastor of the church, officiated to-day, reading the Episcopal burial service. The choir sang "Abide With Me," "O, Paradise," and several other hymns.

Mr. Yznaga's mother was present with his sisters, the Duchess of Manchester and Lady Lester-Kaye, as well as Sir Lester-Kaye, and H. B. Hollins, Frederick Essey, Mr. Yznaga's partners.

Pennsylvania Railroad Car Service.

In connection with West 23d St. Station, is group in performance and reasonable in rates. When starting West, call Phone 341-15th St. for a hand or four-wheeler.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

## NO WAR INVESTIGATION, SAYS LORD SALISBURY.

LONDON, March 18.—In the House of Lords today the Premier Lord Salisbury, replying to inquiries on the subject of an investigation into the conduct of the war in South Africa, said the Government had not made any promise to institute an investigation.

He feared that a full, just and equitable inquiry would lead to a renewal of the same species of regrettable discussion as occurred during the exchange of speeches between Lord Wolseley and Lord Lansdowne.

### CHILD'S HEAD AND ARM FOUND IN STABLE.

The head and arm of a child were found by Policeman Purcell, of the thirty-third Precinct this afternoon in a stable at Broadway and 35th Street and Fifty-third street. The police are investigating.

### RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS.

FOURTH RACE—Varro 1, Claret 2, Disolute 3.

FIFTH RACE—King Elkwood 1, Little Nipper 2, 33-maker 3.

### BOY KILLED IN POWDER EXPLOSION.

CUMBERLAND, Md., March 18.—Thomas Connors, the eight-year-old son of a miner, found a bag of powder in his father's house today and lighted it. The explosion tore down the house and killed the boy instantly, almost tearing him to pieces.

## POLICE BILL SURE TO BECOME LAW.

Senator Platt So Declares Himself After Lunch and Consultation with the Governor.

"The police bill will be presented to the Legislature, the Governor will sign it, and it will become a law."—Senator Platt after his interview with Gov. Odell.

Gov. Odell returned to Albany at 2:30 this afternoon. At 2 o'clock Senator Platt, who had been out of sight since 10 this morning, returned to his office at No. 9 Broadway. It is said that the Senator and the Governor were in conference for more than two hours at one of the downtown clubs and lunched together there.

Mr. Platt replying to an Evening World reporter's question, said curtly: "The police bill will be presented in the Legislature in a few days; it will pass; the Governor will sign it and it will become a law."

But when the Senator was asked whether it would be a State Constabulary bill of a metropolitan district police bill, he refused to particularize. The Senator went to his hotel shortly afterward.

### ODELL'S SECRET TRIP TO SEE PLATT.

ALBANY, March 18.—A secret conference on the State police proposition is said to have taken place between Senator Platt and Gov. Odell at some time yesterday. Gov. Odell was not at the executive chamber this morning, and in response to all questions as to his whereabouts the clerks replied: "We haven't the least idea where the Governor is. He left in the executive chamber now. We don't know when he will be. In fact, we don't know anything about him."

To all intents and purposes the Governor is dead.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Laxative Broom-Quinine Tablets.

Hundreds of Persons in Panic on the Streets and a Number Injured—Reports that Several Perished Not Verified—Property Loss May Run into Millions.

Fire swept one of the busiest sections of St. Louis this afternoon and wiped out several manufactories and dwellings. The property loss may run into millions.

Hundreds of persons, panic-stricken, ran about the streets and could with difficulty be controlled. Many had narrow escapes from death. Two were carried from a building probably fatally burned. Many suffered slight injuries.

There were a number of brave rescues, a crowd caught in a side street being saved with much peril to the firemen.

A number of persons were said to have perished in the flames, but these reports could not be verified.

The fire started in Cherokee street, in the river section, and an area six blocks long and two wide was swept by the flames.

## PAINE WEPT AT WIFE'S LOVE POEM.

Pathetic Scene in Divorce Suit When Old Love Was Raked Up.



MRS. O. V. D. PAINE.

Whose love verse brought tears to husband's eyes in court.

"I have no sweetheart but you, dear. You are the pride of my heart. Oh, if you only but knew, dear, how in the twilight, my darling, how in all of Spring's radiance, how in my heart I would hold you, then when the moon is low, while in the silence I hold you, I had no sweetheart but you."

When the above poem was read by Lawyer Moss in the divorce suit of Mrs. May Paine, being heard before Justice Freeman, in Supreme Court to-day, the husband, Oscar Van Dyke Paine, covered his face with his hands and broke into tears.

Every one in the court was affected. The poem, Mrs. Paine said, was written to her husband when she loved him years ago.

Mrs. May Paine, of No. 63 East One Hundred and Thirty-sixth street, is suing for a separation for abandonment and the husband in a counter-suit asks for an absolute divorce and names John Kintner, ex-Postmaster of Newton, N. J., as co-respondent.

"When I came home I heard you had been here and had trodden me in the mud with what you said about me. I am not what you called me. If I have failed, it is only because I have met one I love."

There was a void in my heart that you could never have filled. Had I loved you as I love him, I would always have remained a true and loyal wife.

This is an undated letter written by Mrs. Paine to her husband. Lawyer Frank Moss, counsel for Mr. Paine, introduced the letter quoted above, and Mrs. Paine, then on the stand, admitted that she wrote it.

"Didn't you know you had broken up Mrs. Kintner's home as well as your own?" asked Mr. Moss.

(Special to The Evening World.) ST. LOUIS, March 18.—A disastrous fire broke out here this afternoon, and in half an hour's time five acres of property was ablaze, causing a heavy loss.

The fire is supposed to have started in the ice-house of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company at the foot of Cherokee street.

Arsenal Caught.

A strong breeze was blowing at the time, and before the engines arrived the flames had communicated to several lumber yards on the north and then to the United States Arsenal, containing quartermasters' stores.

Next the fire leaped to a long row of flats on the east, which were soon in flames.

The tenants ran from these in panic. It is not known whether any lives were lost.

A general alarm was turned in. Little could be done, however, to stop the spread of the flames which, in a short time threatened the bottling and shipping buildings and cars of the Anheuser Brewing Association.

The fire spread over a territory bounded by Zepp street on the south to Arsenal on the north, De Kalb on the west and the river on the east.

This territory is six blocks long and two wide, and was covered by dwellings, lumber yards and repair shops, &c.

The flames continued to spread and the heavy pall of smoke and intense heat kept the firemen at a distance.

It is known, however, that the following buildings had been destroyed: Ice houses of the W. J. Lamp and Anheuser-Busch Breweries, lumber yard and repair shops of the Missouri Car and Foundry Company, shops of the Standard Barrel Company, Stubb Pickle and Vinegar Company's plant, three two-story dwellings, five scattered cottages, buildings of the United States Engineering Department, used for building and repairing barges for Mississippi River work, United States Arsenal used for storage of army supplies, South Side Hunting and Boat Club house and several boat-houses.

Men Badly Burned.

There were a number of persons rescued from the dwellings that were destroyed, and men in the various works had narrow escapes from death. Two men were carried from one building badly burned.

Several minor casualties were reported and the residents in the fire-swept locality were in such a panic that the police found it difficult to control them.

A crowd watching the fire, was temporarily pinned in on a street, but did not suffer as could be ascertained, escaped.

There were reports of several lives having been lost, but neither the police nor firemen verified them.

DRIVEN TO DEATH BY ASTHMA

Mrs. Silberstein Committed Suicide by Inhaling Gas.

Mrs. Ida Silberstein, who lived with her husband, Herman, and her two sons, at 157 Third avenue, committed suicide to-day by inhaling illuminating gas through a tube.

She was fifty years old and had been suffering from asthma for several years.

The Train of the Century.

The Pennsylvania Limited, which enables all that is best in railway architecture.